

law. Someone has suggested that we give all people illegally coming across our borders a cow, and then let the Agricultural Department keep up with them and do the job the immigration people refuse to do.

Our Federal Government needs to be just as concerned about the illegal people coming into the United States as we are about some sick cow coming from Canada.

Mr. Speaker, this ought not to be.

CRITICIZING DRUG LIABILITY PROVISION

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, the first Vioxx lawsuit to reach trial is currently being played out in Texas. The case focuses on the needless death of Robert Ernst, a produce manager at Wal-Mart who also ran marathons and worked as a personal trainer. He took Vioxx for 8 months before he died of an irregular heartbeat.

As the New York Times reports today, it turns out that Merck and other pharmaceutical companies may have knowingly misrepresented the dangers of its drug, Vioxx, to doctors and patients and the public as a whole. Yet, while this trial is going on, this Congress is planning on protecting the pharmaceutical industry from such lawsuits.

On the right side of the screen, a family is fighting an injustice. On the left side of the screen, this Congress is mounting a rear-guard action to protect the pharmaceutical industry. If next week we plan on bringing up the medical malpractice legislation and have a blatantly beneficial provision for the pharmaceutical industry and only the pharmaceutical industry, I will introduce the Vioxx amendment to strip the bill of this provision.

USA PATRIOT ACT REAUTHORIZATION

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, this week on the floor the House will consider the reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act and all Members from both sides of the aisle will, 4 years after 9/11, have an opportunity to show the American people how seriously they take the ongoing threat of terrorism and how they would attempt to combat it.

The PATRIOT Act, as we all know, has been a political punching bag for many ever since its passage. Wild, fear-mongering accusations have abounded about the suppression of dissent and abuse of power, yet in the PATRIOT Act's 4-year history no such abuses have been documented. It has not infringed on anyone, except our terrorist enemies.

Unfortunately, too often, too many seem more critical of the actions of our

own troops than those of the terrorists. And comical as it sounds, such reckless, irresponsible, partisan rhetoric is invariably prefaced with, "I support the troops, but."

But you cannot, Mr. Speaker, you cannot support the troops, but compare them to Nazis. You cannot support the troops, but call their heroic work in Iraq a "grotesque mistake." You cannot support the troops, but say Saddam Hussein's torture chambers are still open, but under new "U.S. management." You cannot support the troops, but say, to score partisan points, that the war in Afghanistan is over, when those very troops are still in harm's way there.

Policy differences are healthy, Mr. Speaker, but words have consequences.

National security is more than just another political issue. Undermining the war on terror undermines the troops, emboldens the enemy, and endangers our young men and women in uniform.

As much as some would like to, we cannot pretend it is September 10 again. We cannot pretend the world is safe. Mr. Speaker, 9/11, Madrid, and London have proven that. Our only choice is to fight or surrender and, for 4 years, the American people have rallied behind our Commander in Chief, committed to fight this war until the last terrorist on earth is either in a cell or a cemetery.

The Democrat Party of FDR and JFK, like the Republican Party under Ronald Reagan and George Bush, understood the necessity of strong, decisive, and bipartisan foreign policy in a dangerous world. This week's agenda will provide all Members from both sides of the aisle the opportunity to affirm whether such bipartisan unity is still possible.

OPPOSING THE PRIVATIZATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my opposition to the recent Republican proposals to privatize Social Security.

Privatizing Social Security is like tearing down the barn to fix the roof. It adds trillions of dollars to the national debt and does nothing to fix the long-term challenges facing Social Security.

The Republican privatization proposal hands future generations a triple burden: a reduction in guaranteed benefits, a hefty transition cost, and a Social Security system that is no closer to solvency.

This is a classic bait-and-switch maneuver, and American workers will not be fooled by trickery, political schemes to line the pockets of Wall Street bankers with their retirement savings.

This country has made a commitment to seniors and to current workers

alike that Social Security will be available upon retirement. We cannot go back on our word. Rural America in particular is counting on Social Security to be there when they need it.

As we prepare to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Social Security, I urge the President to take privatization off the table so that we might achieve a bipartisan agreement to strengthen Social Security for the long term and enhance the retirement security for all Americans.

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESSES OF FREE ENTERPRISE

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the body's attention to a sheet of paper that the Committee on Ways and Means has produced for the membership this morning. It is the top 10 reasons the economy is strong.

The late Alex Haley used to say, find the good and praise it. Mr. Speaker, this morning I would like to pause and praise the free enterprise system and the wonderful men and women, the small business owners who have put their energy into building a strong economy. It is their work. They create the jobs, not us. It is government's job to create the environment and get out of the way and let free enterprise do what it does best.

The items, the 10 items on this list are so encouraging. Unemployment, near historic lows, 5 percent; 4.4 percent average GDP growth since June of last year; 3.7 percent growth in manufacturing output since June of last year.

The economy is strong. Free enterprise is doing its job. Mr. Speaker, let us celebrate that success.

KARL ROVE

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I just cannot help feeling remorse for what has happened to the truth in America.

For more than a week, the American people have known that Karl Rove was involved in the leaking of a covert CIA agent's name to the press. He damaged our national security and put an agent at risk. This is not the work of a patriot.

Of course, Rove did not admit to his treachery. Instead, the story has come out through reporters who are getting their information from Karl Rove's attorney.

Republicans, from the President on down, continue to say that they will not comment until they know all the facts. Here is an idea: President Bush should demand that Karl Rove come clean and tell the American people everything.